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(54) **Electric iron cord guide**

(57) A retaining guide for an electric iron cord which extends between an electric outlet and an electric iron atop an ironing board includes a ring 14 for sliding extension of the cord therethrough during movement of the electric iron atop the ironing board, and structure for attaching the ring to a fabric ironing board cover for extension of a relatively taut portion of the cord between the ring and the electric iron during movement of the iron atop the board, the ring preferably comprising hingedly connected members having outer end portions adapted for detachable engagement for opening to receive the electric cord and engageable to close the ring to retain the cord.

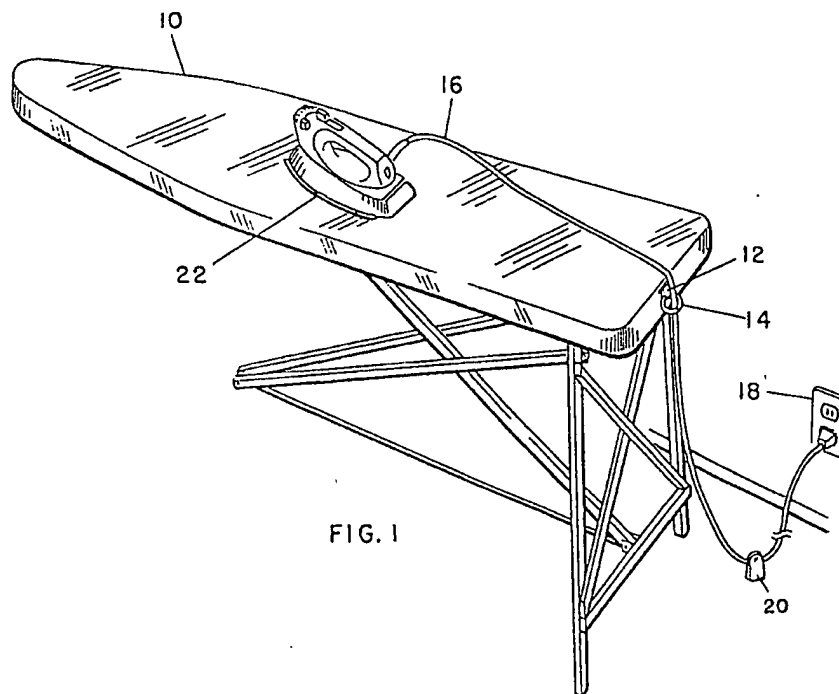


FIG. 1

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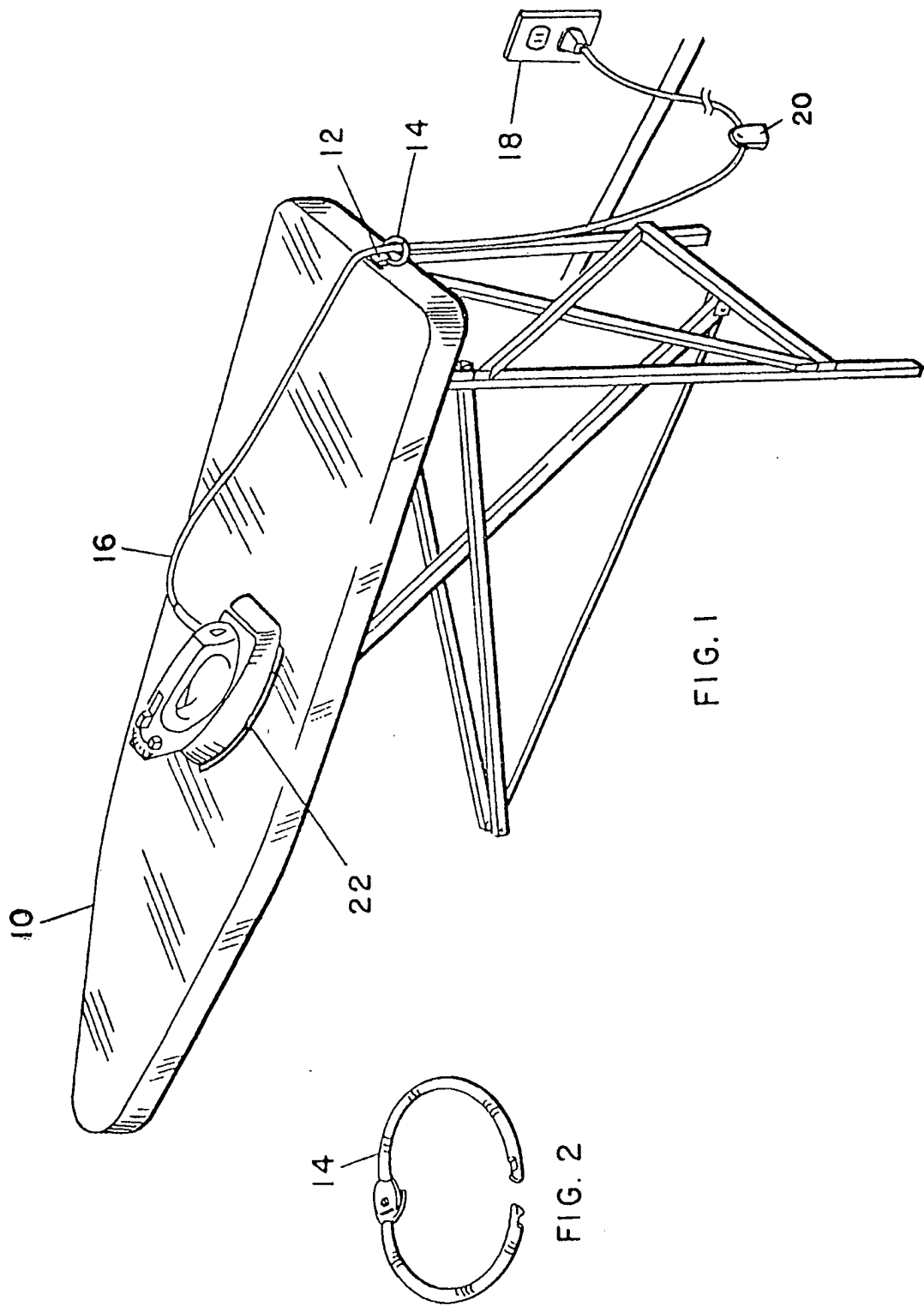


FIG. 1

FIG. 2

FIG. 3

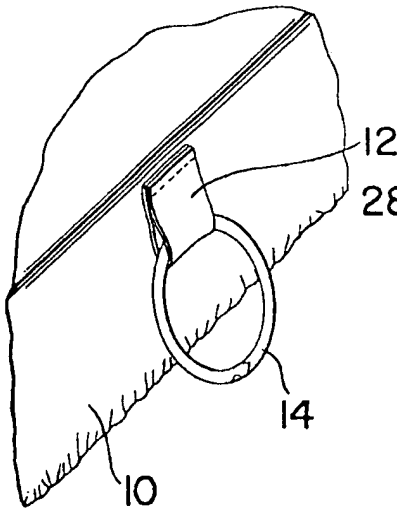


FIG. 4

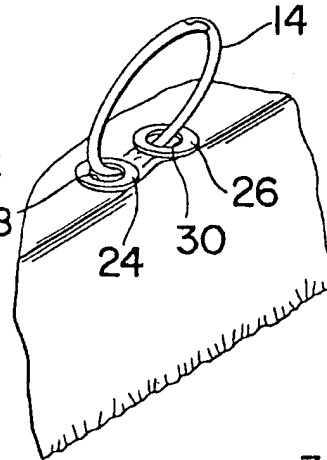


FIG. 5

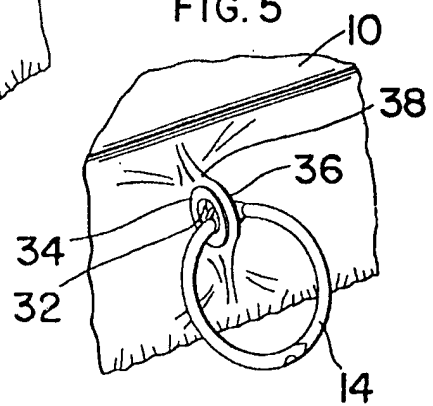


FIG. 6

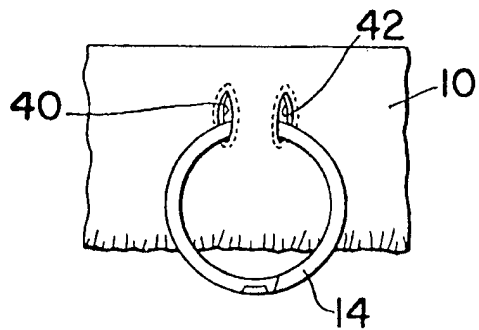
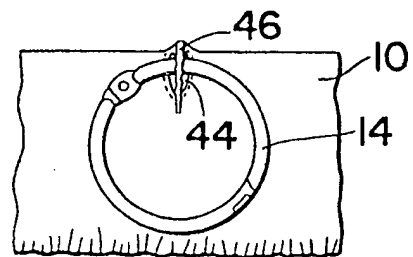


FIG. 7



## SPECIFICATION

## Retaining guide for electric ironing cord

5 The present invention relates to a retaining guide for an electric iron cord.

In the use and movement of electric irons atop electric ironing boards, problems are encountered with the electric cord interconnecting the electric iron 10 with an electric outlet, in that the flexible electric cord often becomes caught on the ironing board edge, becomes entangled, and becomes positioned in the path of the electric iron, with resultant, annoyance, interference with ironing operations, delays in repositioning the cord, and general interference and diminishing of efficiency.

Electric iron cord retaining guides and retractors, contractors or controllers, have been known in the prior art. Such devices are shown and described, as 20 example, in U.S. Patents Nos. 1,522, 684, 1,665,316, 2,680,789, 2,979,296, and 3,866,869.

Such prior devices are characterized by shortcomings and disadvantages. They are generally somewhat complicated and relatively expensive. Being 25 attached to an ironing board and projecting outwardly therefrom, they constitute obstructions and are in the way in the storing of the ironing board when not in use and tend to obstruct movement of the electric iron and the person using the electric iron.

30 An object of the present invention is to overcome or alleviate the aforementioned and other disadvantages and shortcomings of prior devices.

According to the present invention a retaining guide for an electric iron cord extends between an 35 electric power outlet and an electric iron atop an ironing board. The retaining guide is disposed on or in a fabric ironing board cover which is configured and sized to fit over the top and about the edges of the ironing board. The ring is adapted for the slidable 40 extension therethrough of the board during movement of the electric iron atop and about the ironing board, and ring attachment means provide for the extension of a relatively taut portion of the cord between the ring and the iron in all positions of the iron 45 during movement thereof atop the ironing board. The ring typically comprises two hingedly connected arcuate members which have their outer end portions adapted for detachable engagement, thus providing for the detachment of the outer end portions to receive an electric cord and for engagement thereof to 50 close the ring for slidable retention of the cord. A weight may be connected to or suspended from the cord between the ironing board cover and the electric outlet to exert tension or force to maintain the cord in a relatively taut condition between the electric iron 55 and the ring during maneuvering of the iron atop the ironing board.

The ring attachment means may comprise a loop of fabric attached, as by stitching, to the ironing board 60 cover, with the ring extending through such loop, or a pair of eyelets defining spaced openings with the ring extending therethrough, such eyelet-defined spaced openings preferably being defined in a portion of the ironing board cover overlying the ironing board adjacent an edge of the board. The ring attachment means 65

may also comprise an opening defined by eyelets impressed on either side of an outwardly extending fold of the ironing board cover, with the ring extending therethrough. The ring attachment means may 70 also comprise two spaced buttonholes in the ironing board cover with the ring extending therethrough. A single buttonhole may comprise the ring attachment means, such single buttonhole being defined in a portion of the ironing board cover which overlies an 75 edge of the ironing board.

The ring attachment means may preferably be positioned on a portion 5 of the ironing board cover overlying and adjacent to an edge of the ironing board.

80 The invention will now be described further, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

*Figure 1* is a perspective view showing one preferred embodiment of the present invention in operative 85 relation with an electric iron, an electric cord, and an ironing board;

*Figure 2* is a perspective view of a preferred form of ring utilized with the invention, showing hinged portions of the ring in open configuration;

90 *Figure 3* is an enlarged partial perspective view of a portion of *Figure 1*;

*Figure 4* is a view similar to the view of *Figure 3*, and showing another preferred embodiment of the invention;

95 *Figure 5* is a view similar to the view of *Figure 3*, showing another embodiment of the present invention;

*Figure 6* is a fragmentary elevational view, generally similar to the views of *Figures 3* to *5*, and showing 100 another embodiment of the present invention; and

*Figure 7* is a view similar to the view of *Figure 6* and showing another embodiment of the invention.

Referring to the drawings, and particularly to *Figures 1, 2* and *3*, one preferred form of the invention, comprising a fabric loop 12 and a ring 14, is shown in 105 operative relation with an ironing board cover 10 fitted about a conventional ironing board, as shown. The fabric loop 12 is attached to a portion of the ironing board cover 10 which overlies an edge of the ironing board, and is attached thereto by being sewn by stitching. Ring 14 extends through fabric loop 12. An electric cord 16 extends between an electric outlet 18 and an electric iron 22. The cord is slidably received in ring 14 and extends slidably therethrough. If 110 desired or needed, a weight 20 may be suspended upon the cord 16 between the ring 14 and the electrical outlet, although in some or most situations the cord itself provides sufficient weight to retract and maintain relatively taut the electric cord portion between 120 the electric iron and ring 14.

As best shown in *Figure 2*, the ring 14 is comprised of two hinged members having mutually engageable outer end portions, one end portion defining a notch and the other a lug. The ring may thus be opened, as 125 indicated in *Figure 2*, to receive the electric cord 16 and to extend through the fabric loop 12 to attach the ring to the ironing board cover 10 in the manner indicated in *Figure 3*. The ring may also be opened for removal of the electric cord after ironing operations 130 are complete for purposes of storage, etc. The ring

may be fabricated of any appropriate material, such as metal or appropriate plastic.

Figure 4 shows an embodiment of the invention wherein the ring is attached by attachment means comprising a pair of eyelets 24, 26 which are impressed about and define spaced openings 28, 30 in a portion of the ironing board cover overlying an edge, typically an end edge, of the ironing board. The ring 14 is attached by extension thereof through the openings 28, 30 as shown.

Illustrated in Figure 5 is an embodiment of the invention wherein the ring attachment means comprises an opening 32 defined by eyelets 34, 36 impressed about the opening on either side of an outwardly extending fold 38 of the ironing board cover fabric, with the ring extending through the opening, as shown.

Figure 6 shows an embodiment of the invention wherein the ring attachment means comprises two buttonholes 40, 42 in the ironing board cover and spaced apart therein, with the ring 14 extending through the buttonholes.

Figure 7 illustrates another embodiment of the invention, wherein the ring attachment means comprises a single buttonhole 44 defined through two layers of the ironing board cover fabric of an outwardly extending fold 46 of the cover fabric overlying an edge of an ironing board, and the ring extends through said buttonhole.

In utilizing the retaining guide of the invention during movement of the electric iron 22 about the top of the ironing board during ironing operations, when the iron 22 is moved from right to left, as viewed in Figure 1, cord 16 is drawn through ring 14 and is maintained above the ironing board in a relatively taut and untangled condition between the ring and the electric iron. Upon movement of the iron rightward, as viewed, the cord is retracted through the ring to maintain it taut and untangled, this retraction being effected by the weight of the cord portion between the ring and the electric outlet, and by the added weight 20 suspended from the electric cord, if such weight is utilized.

The retaining guide thus assures that the electric cord remains in position above the ironing board in a relatively taut and untangled condition between the electric iron and the ring. The cord does not occupy any position wherein it would interfere with manipulation of the iron during iron operation. The cord is prevented from falling off any edge of the ironing board, and from becoming caught on any portion of the ironing board. The cord is prevented from becoming entangled with articles being ironed, such as when such an article is draped over an edge of the ironing board. The cord is prevented from otherwise interfering or interrupting ironing operations. Ironing operations may be performed quickly and efficiently, utilizing the retaining guide of the invention, with the cord being so maintained as to avoid significant probability of the cord occupying any position which would interfere with manipulation of the electric iron atop the ironing board. Any necessity for interrupting ironing operations to manipulate or move the electric cord out of the way of an electric iron or from engagement with an article being ironed is substantially eli-

minated.

## CLAIMS

1. A retaining guide for an electric iron cord extending between an electric power outlet and an electric iron atop an ironing board having a top surface and edges comprising a fabric ironing board cover configured and sized to fit over the top and about the edges of the ironing board, a ring adapted for sliding extension therethrough of the electric iron cord during movement of the electric iron atop the ironing board and means for attaching the ring to an ironing board cover for extension of a relatively taut portion of the electric cord between the ring and the iron in all positions of the iron atop the board.
2. A retaining guide as claimed in claim 1, in which the ring comprises two hingedly connected arcuate members having outer end portions adapted for detachable engagement for detachment of the end portions to receive the electric cord and engagement of the end portions to close the ring to slidably retain the cord.
3. A retaining guide as claimed in claim 1 or 2 in which a weight is connected to the electric cord intermediate the ironing board cover and the electric outlet to maintain the cord relatively taut between the electric iron and the ring during movement of the iron atop the ironing board.
4. A retaining guide as claimed in claim 1 or 2, in which the ring attaching means comprises a loop of fabric material attached to the ironing board cover the ring extending through the loop.
5. A retaining guide as claimed in claim 1 or 2, in which the ring attachment means comprises a pair of eyelets defining spaced openings in the ironing board cover, the ring extending through the eyelets.
6. A retaining guide as claimed in claim 5, in which the eyelets and spaced openings are in a portion of the ironing board cover overlying the top of the ironing board adjacent an ironing board edge.
7. A retaining guide as claimed in claim 1 or 2, in which the ring attachment means comprises a single opening defined by eyelets on either side of an outwardly extending fold of the ironing board cover fabric, the ring extending through the opening.
8. A retaining guide as claimed in claim 1 or 2, in which the ring attachment means comprises two buttonholes spaced apart in the ironing board cover, the ring extending through the buttonholes.
9. A retaining guide as claimed in claim 1 or 2, in which the ring attachment means is a single buttonhole defined in a portion of the ironing board cover overlying an edge of the ironing board, the ring extending through the buttonhole.
10. A retaining guide as claimed in claim 1 or 2, in which the ring attaching means is disposed on a portion of the ironing board cover adjacent to an edge of the ironing board.
11. A retaining guide constructed and arranged substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in any of the Figures of the accompanying drawings.